

Welcome to the February Ground Plane

February is packed with history. We honor our two Presidents; George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Their birthdays were the 12th and 22nd respectfully.

We also celebrate Valentines Day on the 14th and don't forget the year of the Dragon - 4696 celebrations for Chinese New Year.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Jim Sakane KD6DX took all those nice pictures of the Portable Emergency Ground Plane Antenna. Thank you Jim. My thanks also go out to John Cincotta for presenting the construction of the antenna at the January SBARA meeting.

News: FCC License Restructuring - Details at <http://www.arrl.org> or <http://www.fcc.gov>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER FEBRUARY 2000

Between the recent license restructuring and all the talk about Y2K preparedness, it seems ham radio is enjoying a resurgence of interest. This hit home when I recently visited a licensing 'cram class' where a record 75 attendees were trying to get their first ticket or an upgrade.

This presents SBARA with a wonderful opportunity to help a bunch of new hams get started on the right foot. In response, the Leadership Team is developing programs for both new hams and those wishing to upgrade. The presentations and hands-on workshops are coming together nicely.

A key ingredient to the success of a new ham is a friendly and knowledgeable 'Elmer'. There's a statistic that 30% of all new licensee NEVER GET ON THE AIR! The primary reason is fear of making mistakes. One of my most important goals this year is to collect and organize a group of Club Elmers to share their experience love of the hobby with newcomers. So if you are a seasoned ham at ANY level and want to help another ham learn the ropes, please contact me directly and together we'll let the magic begin!

See you all at the next meeting
Rudi – KF6RLQ

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 SBARA Presidents Message
- 3 Place Holder
- 7 Place Holder

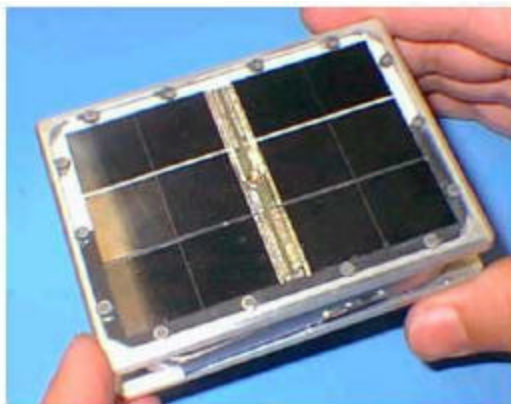
CLUB T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

There are still a few SBARA t-shirts available for \$10 each. Contact Helen Campbell at 510-790-0294 or helndugc@wco.com.

February 2000 Meeting Guest Presenter

Professor Robert Twiggs (KE0MD), Director of the Stanford Satellite Development Laboratory, plus one grad student and two Stanford mentors will present an overview of the satellite activities at Stanford University. The team will show the prototype of "Sapphire", the first student built satellite at Stanford along with short videos, slides and several examples of "daughter" satellites, called picosats and CanSats (a complete satellite contained in a soda can).

They will also show an example of an amateur radio cross-band VHF repeater which is about the size of a paperback and weighs less than 2kg that is scheduled to fly next year.



We delivered our flight ready satellite to Stanford on April 13, 1999!

BECOME A 'HAMBASSADOR'

Do you have kids in school? Do you know someone in a retirement community? How about a long-distance truckdriver? Or senior citizens who travel in their RV? Maybe you belong to another local community services organization?

Here's your chance to spread the word about SBARA and ham radio in general. With your help, the Club can arrange for a 'show and tell' for your group. Please contact Rudi Wiedemann, Public Information Officer.

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2000 OPPORTUNITIES

You've read elsewhere in this issue about the exciting new plans the current Leadership Team 2000 members have for this year. Here's your chance to contribute and expand the scope of what we can accomplish.

WEBMASTER: Filled

QUARTERMASTER: Collect and manage the use of Club materials including radio equipment, A/V materials and books.

SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR: a) ensure the Club has an organized presence at all important local non-club functions like Primavera, Field Day, Pacificon, etc, b) seek out or create engaging new community events and help organize Club participation.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Filled

CHRONICLER: Research and summarize the Club history, and submit interesting 'snippets' about Club members and activities.

If you (or someone you know) is interested in learning more about the above position, please contact Rudi Wiedemann directly.

April Meeting Presentation

Don't miss the fun at the April 19, 2000 SBARA meeting. Syd Furman W6QWK will be leading a transmitter hunting presentation and follow-on transmitter hunt in Central Park for everyone in attendance. The presentation will stress the concepts, equipment and different methods of T-hunting while the T-hunts will give practical experience to those who participate. Syd and friends plan to have two hunts going on simultaneously. One for participants that are new to T-Hunting and one for participants that have been on a T-Hunt before. Transmitter hunting skills are becoming more and more important in locating and reporting 'jammers' and in helping hams 'self-police' the amateur radio frequency spectrum.

If you have ever wondered what it is like to go on a T-hunt, do not miss this opportunity on April 19th to be on a hunt with the SBARA experts. Bring your 2-meter HT with fully charged battery and a flashlight. That is all that will be required for you to take part in this FUN event.

CLUB STARTS A 'RESOURCE COLLECTION

Do you have radios, equipment or supplies you don't use much anymore (or belongs to the Club)? The Club is collecting donations of working (or easily serviceable) radios, antennas, equipment & ham-related materials. This can be anything from an old single-band 2m HT to a multi-band HF rig. We're also looking for Morse code training stuff, videotapes & recent license manuals. The whole idea is to loan these materials to new (and upgraded) hams, so with the help of their Elmer they can get their ticket and enjoy their new privileges faster! If you want see your stuff put to good use rather than collect dust, then please contact Rudi Wiedemann right away for donations.

CQ CQ CQ de "T" Hunters....

Have you even wanted to do a "T" Hunt? Well now you can have your change....The April, 2000 Monthly Meeting will be the first SBARA Club "T" Hunt Adventure Watch the March Newsletter for all the details....

Grab those flashlights, signal strength meters and the wit to Out Fox the Fox!!!!
The one that finds the Fox – buys the First Round!!!!

SBARA Club Officer Reports

Treasurer

Total cash assets 12/27/1999: \$2298.38

Income since then:\$703.66

Expenses:\$263.48

Current balance 1/27/2000:\$2738.56

Projected for February: Income \$300, expenses \$200

Ted – N6BFO

Membership

This issue of the Ground Plane has a dues reminder notice combined with a member survey form. If you need one but not the other, great, just cross out the extra and mail in that form!

We have gained three new hams since the first of the year, and new members bring the paid up membership to 59. That means about 40 of you still need to fill in the form, sign that check, and mail in your dues.

You may also renew your membership at this months meeting. See you then!
Alan Kittrell KE6YKK

Secretary

The General Meeting minutes from our January meeting are contained within the body of the Newsletter.

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MAY SBARA PROGRAM AND WORKSHOP REMINDER

May's meeting presentation will be feature Nils Holmes (N1LS) talking about the Internet & Internet Gateways. Plan to attend this months meeting to learn about the Internet Highway. DATE: May 17, 2000.

Meeting starts at 7:30PM. Also, Plan to attend Pal Carlin's dynamic workshop on Emergency Communications. Paul has an interesting presentation and hands on session planned for the Saturday May 20th workshop at the Fremont Community Center in Central Park. Time: 2 to 4:00PM in the afternoon.

Ham Class Announcement

There are 2 upcoming ham classes. The first class is March 4 & 5 (Saturday & Sunday) in Foster City at the Foster City Recreation Center, 650 Shell Blvd, Foster City. This class is primarily a no-code Technician class, with testing & study materials available on Sunday for any class of license. The second class is April 15 (Saturday) at the Mount Alverno Conference Center in Redwood City, 3910 Bret Harte Drive. This class will be the first class under the new licensing regulations and will offer code testing at 5WPM; upgrading without testing (for those who qualify); and classes for the new technician, general and extra licenses (the extra will require advanced study, please talk to me for information). Both classes will start at 8:30AM each morning and will run until approximately 5:30PM. If you are interested please let me know. Class size is limited - please reserve early.

Interesting Fact...

Did you know that your Radio Club – SBARA has a World Wide Web site?

Check it out at – <http://www.qsl.net/sbara/>

Thanks to the current Web Development staff for making the Clubs WWW possible!

Newsletter Editor...

Local Resident Donates Computer

Club member Mary Biggs, KF6GAJ, arranged for her friend Joyce Logan to donate a PC for ham use. The plan is to use it for APRS, as a file server for Field Day contest logging, Morse code software and other PC-related projects. Thank you Mary and Joyce !!!

NEW HAM ORIENTATION

WORKSHOP

Saturday morning, January 29th, I was driving around Fremont listening on the 147.015 repeater and I heard SBARA members talking about a New Ham Orientation Workshop being held at the Hickory Pit restaurant. Being the 'curious' ham that I am I decided to drive over and see what it was all about.

Much to my surprise the back room at the 'Pit' was full of new hams hungry for information about amateur radio and oh yes, breakfast too! Rudi KF6RLQ and friends were soon explaining to the 'rookies' about handheld transceiver basics, repeater concepts and good operating practices. Coffee cups were kept full and before long they were eating breakfast and devouring all the 'expert' advice.

I was impressed by the good questions that were asked by these new hams. Most of them were so new that they had not been on the air yet. After Breakfast they got their chance. The workshop moved out to the parking lot and team 'fired' up their rigs and the new hams were shown how to do it.

This workshop was a great success. It was a lot of fun. With the breakfast format there was a social aspect to the workshop. But, the important thing is that there are now over twenty new hams that have been given a great start in the hobby. If the truth were to be known even this 'old timer' learned a few things about tone squelch that he put to use on his HT Saturday evening. Guess you're never too old to...yadda, yadda, yadda.

Check out the Great Photos--→

New Ham Workshop



NEW SUPPLY FOR BAILING WIRE.

If you read my article on building a portable emergency ground plane antenna you've figured out in my youth I used a lot of bailing wire. Now, I'm all for progress and putting new technology to use. So let me set the record straight; Duct tape is better and more convenient for ham radio use.

It is not just that there is nostalgic value to bailing wire. It is actually my handicap. I'm bailing wire impaired. I think in terms of bailing wire. I first think of a solution to my predicament using the stuff and then translate to duct tape. It's like thinking in your own language and then translating the words to speak a second language.

So it was with great excitement that I discovered a 'soul brother' whom also feels about bailing wire as I do. Ron Green (his call) brought me a gift coil of really, really good bailing wire to the January SBARA meeting. It was the COATED grade. The good stuff! Not the shiny kind that was all I could afford as a kid. It was from his private stash.

Evidently years ago Ron bought a box of coiled bailing wire for seven bucks. Back then that bought you 20,000 feet. He still has 19,900 feet left. If anyone needs bailing wire to tie up a dragging automobile muffler, contact Ron.

Man what I'd give to see this guy's Garage!

Alameda County Emergency Manual

An updated version of the Alameda County Emergency Manual, or Instant Trainer, is on the web,

<http://www.pd.arll.org/ebsec/IT2000pdf>

This was prepared as a joint effort with the County ECs. The final step of converting it to a file acceptable to the web was made possible using the expert help of Alan Kittrell-KE6YKK. His help was invaluable! All hams, please take a look and maybe download and print a copy. Please report all errors or proposed changes to your EC. The previous Editor-in-Chief is taking a long trip and plans to lose all typesetting expertise. Syd-W6QWK"

February Ground Plane Antenna Workshop

The follow-up workshop for constructing the portable emergency ground plane antenna will be February 26th at the community center in Central Park. There were 10 members who signed up to build their own kit.

The antenna was described in The January Newsletter and was the subject of the January SBARA meeting program. Time: 9:00am to 11:00am

AMATEUR SATELLITES

I subscribe via e-mail to the "ARRL Members Only Web site" memberlist@www.arrl.org. Every once in a while something comes across that catches this 'old' timer's eye. That is exactly what happened last month when I received ARRL bulletin ARLS001 - Three Amateur Radio Satellites Rocket Into Space.

What caught my eye was that one of the satellites, StenSat, was sponsored by the Stanford University team that will make the program presentation at SBARA's February 16th meeting. All three of the new satellites have amateur radio capability but the StenSat is strictly a ham satellite.

StenSat will operate as a single-channel Mode J FM voice repeater. The uplink frequency will be 145.84 MHz: the downlink will be 436.625 MHz. StenSat will periodically transmit 1200 baud AX.25 for telemetry. Additionally, amateur radio operators will be able to 'ping' the satellite by transmitting a six-digit DTMF command to the receiver uplink. February's SBARA club meeting presentation is timely for those of us that want to learn more about amateur satellites. I'm going to attend since this 'old timer' would like to learn more about this interesting aspect of amateur radio. See the details of the presentation in this months Ground Plane Newsletter February's program announcement. More information on StenSat is available at <http://users.erols.com/hheidt/>

QUICK REFERENCE CORNER

This Month: Local Regular Nets

NET	DAY	TIME	FREQ
NoCAL Net	Dly	1930	145.210-
Antioch EC	Sun	2100	146.535s
Livermore			
RACES	Mon	1900	147.120+ 145.350- 145.430- PL 100.0
Hayward (EB) ARES	Mon	1930	145.130- PL 127.3
SATERN	Mon	1930	147.060+ PL 100.0
SATERN	Mon	2000	145.110- PL 82.5
Tri-City ARES	Tue	1930	147.015+
SCC ARES	Tue	2000	146.115+
AICo ARES	Wed	1900	147.240+ 444.200+ PL 107.2
Contra Costa ARES	Thu	1900	145.680s 146.535s 146.355- PL 100.0 145.110- PL 82.5
NAICo ARES	Thu	1915	147.480s 440.900+ PL 114.8
Contra Costa ARES	Thu	1920	147.060+ 441.325+ PL 100.0
Oakland ARES	Thu	1930	147.585s 146.880- PL 77.0
Hospital Net	4 We	1200	147.060+ PL 100.0

SBARA - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CLUB MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2000

PLACE - FREMONT COMMUNITY CENTER

TIME - 7:30PM

SABARA continues the new Century with a spectacular presentation. See the January or February Newsletter for details. Come and join us for a fun-filled evening.

February Program – Space

VE FCC LICENSE TESTING

PLACE - LAKE ELIZABETH BOAT HOUSE

TIME - 7:00PM

Take you FCC License Exam hosted by the Sunnyvale VECs. Cost is \$6.50 for each exam – Novice thru Extra including code tests are given the second Monday of every month.

Upcoming test dates are:

February 14, 2000

Fee: \$6.50

Two Forms of Identification are required prior to testing.

Upcoming VEC Test Sessions

Date & Time

Sat, Feb 12, 1030

Mon, Feb 14, 1900

Sat, Feb 19, 1100

Sat, Feb 19, 0800-1100

Sat, Mar 11, 1030

Mon, Mar 13, 1900

Sat, Mar 18, 1100

Location

Sunnyvale

Fremont

Redwood
City

Cupertino

Sunnyvale

Fremont

Redwood
City

Test Locations

FREMONT

Fremont Community Center
40204 Paseo Padre Parkway
@ Lake Elizabeth, just S. of boat ramp

SUNNYVALE

840 Washington Ave.
Washington Park

REDWOOD CITY

American Legion Hall
651 El Camino Real

CUPERTINO

Compaq Computer, Tandem Div.
19333 Vallco Parkway
(FIRST street S. of Vallco Mall bridge)
(register with Security FIRST)

1/19/00 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Attending: President Rudi Wiedemann KF6RLQ, Vice President Alan Kittrell KE6YKK, Treasurer Ted Cameron N6BFO, Secretary Elise Ciralo KF6TQB, Program Facilitator Al Rendon WT6K, Newsletter Editor Bill Artelt WB9YVM, and 33 members and guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Rudi Wiedemann KF6RLQ

Presidents message.

Rudi went over his vision for SBARA in the coming year including a request for additional volunteers for open positions. Andy Mascsak WD6CJK will be quartermaster and Sid Jones will be the photographer. We still need a webmaster, special events director and a chronicler. Lloyd Hartshorn N6DOK will be our first Hambassador to his daughter's space and science club. Rudi plans to keep the meetings focused and fun. The majority of the business part of SBARA will be in The Ground Plane and not covered at the general meetings.

Rudi also requested the donation of any ham equipment (working or needing a little repair), instruments, antennas, books, tapes, videos, morse code training materials, etc. for our resource collection. SBARA will make the items available to new hams or hams that are upgrading providing they have an Elmer.

We will be having fund raisers during the year. Currently, an Emergency Quick Reference Card is available for a \$1 donation.

Organizational announcements:

Brian Jones, a Fremont CERT amateur radio member is looking for more volunteers. He stated that the following meetings workshops will be held:

- 2/9/00 7:00 meeting on how to use radios for anyone interested
- 3/8/00 a class on communication and command system during an emergency
- 3/18/00 Workshop on building and putting up an emergency antenna

Bill Dale, the Emergency Coordinator from Milpitas stated he would like closer communication with the southern Alameda County Emergency Volunteer groups.

Membership:

There were no license upgrades. New hams and guests were introduced.

Alan Kittrell reported on the results of the survey that members completed at the end of last year. He also went over the new license restructuring.

Programs:

Al Rendon reported on two upcoming workshops:

1/29/00 Orientation for new hams including demonstrations of various radios and equipment and different setups in vehicles.

2/26/00 Build a 2m and a 70cm antenna for your go-bag. Open to the first 10 people who sign up.

General Information

Doug Campbell WB6GBE advises that Primavera will be on April 16th and he needs volunteers.

The membership voted unanimously to have The Ground Plane posted on the SBARA web site. Those members who are able to access the web will be able to download their copy. Everyone else will receive their's by U.S. Mail. This will save considerable funds since we now have to pay for photocopying. Bill Artelt would appreciate help in assembling The Ground Plane.

Adam Lau KF6UQS properly identified 12 hidden links in the current web edition of The Ground Plane.

Jim Wood KE6IVA needs at least one more order for name badges prior to sending in the latest order.

Lance Byard KB6INH advised that ARRL members are able to have e-mail forwarded to them via an ARRL address. Refer to the ARRL web site for details.

Thanks to the Furmans for the hot apple pie.

The evening program was on emergency ground plane antennas and was presented by John Cincotta N6PLR and Al Rendon.

Adam Lau won the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by the SBARA Club Secretary....



Please check the appropriate box, give us your name and callsign, and send in your check. If you wish to pay by cash, please bring this notice, along with your money, to the next SBARA meeting.

Regular Membership (\$15) ☐

Family Membership (\$20) ☐

*Two or more family members
at the same address*

Senior Membership (\$5) ☐

SBARA Treasurer
PO Box 8377
Fremont, CA 94537-8377

Thanks, we appreciate your continued support.

Alan Kittrell KE6YKK, Membership Director

Callsign, Name:

Address:

Phone, eMail:

If you have not completed a member survey please fill in below:

I hold a _____ class license. I've been a ham for _____ years. My interests are ranked 1 to 5 below.

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| BANDS: | ☐ ULF | ☐ HF | ☐ VHF | ☐ UHF | ☐ Microwave |
| MODES: | ☐ Phone | ☐ CW | ☐ Packet | ☐ Satellite | ☐ SSTV |
| EVENTS: | ☐ Primavera | ☐ Field Day | ☐ Pacificon | ☐ T-Hunts | ☐ Baker-to-Vegas |
| MISC: | ☐ Antennas | ☐ Kits | ☐ QRP | ☐ DX'ing | ☐ ARES/RACES |
| | ☐ APRS | ☐ Solar | ☐ Portable | ☐ Mobile | ☐ Contesting |
| OTHER: | ☐ | | | | |

Please list other amateur radio groups you are actively involved with:

Are you interested in upgrading your license? Y N

What is your biggest barrier to license upgrade? _____

Do you know someone interested in amateur radio? Y N Are you willing to be an Elmer? Y N

What other community-services organizations do you belong to?

What kind of presentations and projects would you like to see SBARA organize for you?

The Ground Plane
South Bay Amateur Radio Association -
SBARA
P.O. Box 8377
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8377
February-2000 Newsletter

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